

mutation, which involves heavy risks, many mutations being lethal, others disadvantageous. But the polyploid species may themselves have arisen by duplication, combined with mutation, and hence it appears that those regions characterized by polyploids, while not necessarily the original homes of the genera concerned, have at least been inhabited by them a very long while. Consequently the cytology of all these plants acquires a new interest, and the chromosome count is no longer merely a matter of record, lacking special significance. For instance, with reference to the very recent (Botanical Gazette, April, 1926) discussion of *Xanthium* by Symons, it seems possible that the true *X. Wootoni* will be found to have fewer chromosomes than those allied species which occasionally produce *Wootoni*-like burrs. If so, the genuine *X. Wootoni* will always breed true, as it did in the experiments of DeVries.

I notice only one misprint in the eleventh edition: *Hippophæ* for *Hippophaë*. To the American botanist some of the generic arrangements will seem illogical, and indeed the amount of generic division allowed seems to vary with the authority who last revised the group. These catalogues are certainly most useful, and stimulating to botanists in the regions where they are used. It would be a great service to American botany to issue a series of similar lists, dealing with the various major divisions of our country. It is important that the price should be low. The eleventh edition of the London Catalogue, though well printed on good paper, is sold for ten pence (20 cents), and may be had interleaved and bound in limp cloth for a shilling and sixpence. The publisher is Geo. Bell and Sons, 6 Portugal Street, W. C., London.

T. D. A. COCKERELL

“TROPICAL WOODS”

In March, 1925, the School of Forestry of Yale University began the publication, under the name “Tropical Woods,” of a small quarterly journal which, under the efficient editorship of Prof. Samuel J. Record, has now reached its seventh number. It is devoted to the forestry and botany of tropical trees, with special reference to those of America. The first five numbers were distributed gratuitously and widely, but with the sixth the

journal takes a somewhat more regular footing as a botanical periodical by the adoption of a subscription price (\$.25 per copy). The publication of numbers 4, 5, and 6 was financed by the United Fruit Company.

Unless the limitations imposed by the issue of only about 144 small octavo pages annually are removed by the adoption of a larger format, it will evidently be impossible for this journal to print more than a small fraction of the rapidly increasing output of papers on the botany and forestry of tropical trees. A field of perhaps greater usefulness is open to it, however—that of presenting, in addition to such short original notes as the limits of space may permit, summary reviews of at least all the important items in the current literature of the world relating to its subject. That the editor has envisaged this opportunity is shown by the number and variety of the reviews already printed, which occupy two-fifths of the pages.

Among the original papers, the following (all by the editor unless otherwise noted) may be mentioned: in no. 1, "Lapachol," "Secretory cells in dicotyledonous woods," "Preliminary check list of British Honduras woods" (vernacular and botanical names); in no. 2, "Schizolobium: a promising source of pulp-wood," "Forest conditions in southeastern Bahia, Brazil," by H. M. Curran; in no. 3, "Cystoliths in wood," "Spiral tracheids and fiber-tracheids;" in no. 4, "An enumeration of the Sapotaceae of Central America," by P. C. Standley (with descriptions of 5 new species of *Lucuma* and 2 of *Bumelia*), "Occurrence of intercellular canals in dicotyledonous woods"; in no. 5, "Notes on new cabinet woods from Brazil," by K. Schmiegl, "Trees of the Bayano River watershed, Panama," by H. C. Kluge and S. J. Record; in no. 6, "Mahogany in the upper Amazon," "Mucilage cells and oil cells in the woods of the Lauraceae," by H. H. Janssonius, "Some fundamental considerations of specific gravity," by S. J. Record and H. D. Tiemann; in no. 7, "New species of trees collected in Guatemala and British Honduras by Samuel J. Record," by P. C. Standley, "Trees of the lower Rio Motagua Valley, Guatemala," by S. J. Record and H. Kuylen, "Native woods used for railway crossties in British Honduras," by G. W. E. Francis. There are also numerous short notes. The journal is well printed and carefully edited.

S. F. BLAKE